Neglected highway proejcts in Andhra Pradesh

1128. SHRIAMTIVANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of each highway project especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the funds utilized for each project;

(c) whether some projects have been neglected due to lack of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The status of major ongoing projects including those of Andhra Pradesh, each costing more than Rs. 5 Crores and above, for the development of National Highways entrusted with State Governments and Border Road Organization (BRO), are atAnnexure [See Appendix 207, Annexure No. 3] respectively. The status of different phases of the National Highway Development project is at Annexure. *[See* Appendix 207, Annexure No. 3]

In addition, there are 1156 projects amounting to Rs. 2395.46 Crores, each costing less than Rs. 5 Crores for different improvement works in the National Highways entrusted to the State Government and the BRO, These are in different stages of progress.

(c) to (e) There is no such project costing more than Rs. 5 Crores.

Action taken against the Civil Engineer

1129. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Civil Engineer has been held for cheating National Highways Authority of India of Rs. 64 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government have initiated any enquiry about the matter; and

(c) the number of officials of the NHAI that have been found involved in the matter and action taken against them and further action Government propose to take to prevent occurrence of similar offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Director of M/s Maharia Resurfacing and Construction Pvt. Ltd. has been arrested by Delhi Police. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has field 5 complaints with Delhi Police against the contractors M/s Maharia Resurfacing & Construction Pvt. Ltd., M/s Maharia Raj (Joint Venture) and M/s You-one Maharia (JV) for furnishing false Bank guarantees in execution of five contracts. Delhi Police is investigating the matter.

(b) and (c) The Vigilance Wing of the NHAI is investigating the matter. NHAI has strengthened the system of verification of Bank guarantees to prevent any such recurrence.

Indo-US cooperation in Space Technology

1130. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any discussion on Indo-US co-operation in space technology and commerce under the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the above discussions;

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals for Launch Service Agreement (LSA) and Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) in the above discussions;

(d) if so, the status of the above proposals as on date; and

(e) if so, whether there is a drift in Indo-US space co-operation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Next Steps in Strategic Partnership (NSSP) was declared completed through a Joint Statement on July 18, 2005. As a result of NSSP, ISRO Headquarters was removed from the Entity List of the US